

MEMO

DATE: November 2, 2006
TO: Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Sheryll Del Rosario, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1879
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SUBJECT: The California Climate Action Registry

SUMMARY:

Diane Wittenberg, President of the California Climate Action Registry, will present the Registry's activities with cities and counties.


BACKGROUND:

The California Climate Action Registry (the Registry) was established by California statute as a non-profit voluntary registry for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The purpose of the Registry is to help companies and organizations with operations in the state to establish GHG emissions baselines against which any future GHG emission reduction requirements may be applied.

The Registry encourages voluntary actions to increase energy efficiency and decrease GHG emissions. Using any year from 1990 forward as a base year, participants can record their GHG emissions inventory. The State of California, in turn, will offer its best efforts to ensure that participants receive appropriate consideration for early actions in the event of any future state, federal or international GHG regulatory scheme. Registry participants include businesses, non-profit organizations, municipalities, state agencies, and other entities.

The Registry has developed a General Protocol and additional industry-specific protocols which give guidance on how to inventory GHG emissions for participation in the Registry: what to measure, how to measure, the back-up data required, and certification requirements. When organizations become participants, they agree to register their GHG emissions for all operations in California, and are encouraged to report nationwide. Both gross emissions and efficiency metrics will be recorded. The Registry requires the inclusion of all direct GHG emissions, along with indirect GHG emissions from electricity use. The Registry requires the reporting of only CO2 emissions for the first three years of participation, although participants are encouraged to report the remaining five GHGs covered in the Kyoto protocol (CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF6). The reporting of all six gases is required after three years of Registry participation.

Reviewed
by:

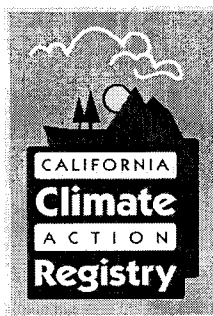


Division Manager

Affirmed
by:



Department Director



FACTSHEET: California Climate Action Registry

Mission: to serve as a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to protect, encourage and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions.

The California Climate Action Registry (Registry) provides leadership on climate change by promulgating credible and consistent GHG reporting standards and tools for organizations to measure, report, and reduce their GHG emissions.

STATISTICS

(as of September 2006)

Number of members: 85

GHG emissions certified in database: 199,703,317 metric tons CO₂e

(192,254,176 metric tons CO₂e of direct emissions, 7,449,140 metric tons CO₂e of indirect emissions)

HISTORY

- Established by California statute (SB 1771, 2001 and SB 527, 2002) as a non-profit voluntary registry for greenhouse gas emissions.
- California will offer its best efforts to ensure that Registry participants receive appropriate consideration for early actions in the event of any future state, federal or international GHG regulatory scheme.
- Launched in October 2002 with 23 Charter Members.

PROGRAM

Using any year from 1990 forward as a base year, participants can record their GHG emissions inventory. Registry participants complete an annual three step process:

1. **Inventory** direct and indirect entity-wide GHG emissions according to the Registry's Protocols (includes stationary, mobile, process and fugitive emissions, and indirect emissions from purchased electricity and steam)
2. **Certify** emissions inventory with state- and Registry-approved third party to ensure completeness, consistency and comparability of data.
3. **Publicly** report entity-wide emissions data via the Registry's website.

PROTOCOLS

- Established, publicly available measurement protocols guide members and certifiers through the process of calculating, reporting and certifying their GHG emissions inventory.
- Based on WRI/WBCSD *GHG Reporting Protocol*; continuously working with other national and international organizations to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- Recognized as a gold standard for voluntary public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.

Current protocols in use:

- General Reporting Protocol 2.1
- Power/Utility Protocol
- Cement Protocol
- Forest Protocols

Protocols in development:

- Natural Gas Transmission & Distribution
- Oil/Gas Refining & Transportation
- Agriculture – project protocol
- Municipalities

POLICY WORK

Along with greenhouse gas accounting issues, the Registry is active in debates and discussions on greenhouse gas accounting policy. As a non-partisan organization, the Registry works on a regional, national and international scale to bring together thought leaders on climate change, including policymakers, business, academics and other NGOs to advocate for globally standardized GHG reporting and measurement standards.

California Climate Action Registry

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